

Welcome to the December 2014 ACS newsletter!


Please share the contents of this newsletter with your American friends and colleagues and have them enroll too! In order to receive this free newsletter, please enroll your stay in Romania with the U.S. State Department's free Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) at <https://step.state.gov/step/>.

In This Issue:

- Meet Dean Thompson, our Chargé d' Affaires ad Interim.
 - Upcoming Holidays and ACS Office Closures.
 - Get Help in an Emergency.
 - **Social Security Online: Important Announcement**
 - Update: Passport, Reports of Birth Abroad (CRBA) and Notarial Services.
 - Mail in your passport application! You can renew your passport via mail.
 - Fees for services
 - Doing Business in Romania/ Investing in the U.S.A./ Exporting U.S. Food and Agriculture to Romania.
 - Social Media Service for American Citizens in Romania
 - Don't Drink and Drive- Taxi contact information
-

 [Read previous newsletters here.](#)

 [Embassy Messages and Travel Alerts are here.](#)

 Send all email inquiries to Bucharest, American Citizen Services
ACSBucharest@state.gov

Meet Dean Thompson, our Chargé d' Affaires ad Interim



Dean Thompson is a member of the Senior Foreign Service and has 20 years of experience in U.S. diplomacy. Most recently, Mr. Thompson served as the U.S. Consul General in Kolkata, India and the Chief of the Economic and Commercial Affairs section of the U.S. Embassy in Colombo, Sri Lanka. He has also served at the U.S. Embassies in Paraguay and Bangladesh. While stationed in Washington, Mr. Thompson has led several teams in direct support of the U.S. Secretary of State and served as Director of the Executive Secretariat Staff, the Deputy Director of the Department's 24 hour Operations Center and the Director of the Department's Crisis Management Staff. Prior to joining the Foreign Service, he worked in the Office of the Secretary of Defense on European Security Negotiations. Mr. Thompson has a Masters of Public Management from the University of Maryland, School of Public Affairs and a Masters of National Security Studies from the U.S. National War College. He is married to Mrs. Jane Thompson, an early childhood specialist with expertise in the intervention and education of children with developmental delays and disabilities. They have three children.

Upcoming Holidays and ACS Office Closures

The U.S. Embassy and U.S. Consulate in Romania will be closed on the following dates:

December-2014	
Christmas Day	Thursday, Dec. 25
Day after Christmas (Observed, Romania)	Friday, Dec. 26
January- 2015	
New Year's Day	Thursday, January 1
Day after New Year's Day (Observed, Romania)	Friday, January 2

The Embassy and Consulate are closed on public American and Romanian holidays. For a list of public holidays observed by the Embassy, please select [Holidays](#).

For announcements on emergency closings or delayed openings, please make sure to check our [website](#) and/or [Facebook](#) page around the holidays and during severe weather conditions.

Get Help in an Emergency

How to contact us:

•**E-mail:** For specific questions regarding our services that have not been answered by the information on our website, send an email to AcsBucharest@state.gov

•**Telephone inquiries:** The American Citizen Services Unit answers inquiries by telephone at (+4) 021-270-6000 Monday to Friday, between the hours of 1:00 pm and 4:30 pm, except for American and Romanian public holidays. The morning hours are reserved for visitors with appointments and only emergency phone calls (see instructions below) can be answered.

•**Emergencies:** In case of an emergency, i.e. the arrest, life threatening illness or death of an American citizen, you can call the above number from 8:00 A.M. through 5:00 P.M. In case of such an emergency outside these business hours, i.e. evenings, weekends or holidays, please call the Duty Officer at (+4) 021-200-3300. No immigration, visa or ESTA information is available at this number. Fax: + (40 21) 200-3578.

• **Consulate Location:**

Consular Section, U.S. Embassy Bucharest, 4-6, Liviu Librescu Blvd., District 1, Bucharest, north of Baneasa Shopping Mall. For a map please click on this [Google Maps](#) link.

For important information and alerts: Make sure you get the message by [email](#), [Facebook](#) or check our [website](#)

Emergency Resources:

- [Lost & Stolen Passports](#)
- [Medical Emergencies](#)
- [Victims of Crime](#)
- [Arrest & Detention](#)
- [Missing Persons & Contacting Loved Ones](#)
- [Parental Child Abductions](#)
- [Death Abroad](#)
- [Natural Disasters](#)
- [The State Department's Role in a Crisis](#)

Social Security Online: Important Announcement

Dear Beneficiary,

The CHASE debit card program will be discontinued effective of 12/12/2014; no payments will be credited to any CHASE card after this date. The cards will still be active and users will be able to withdraw or charge money until further notice. Chase will notify all their clients of the final deactivation date of the cards. After that, if there are any residual amounts of money on the account CHASE will issue a check to their clients. If you are currently receiving your SSA, OPM or VA benefits via a CHASE debit card SSA is planning to revert back to paper check beginning with the 01/02/2015 payment.

These are the available options:

1. Have your benefits deposited into a US Bank account
2. Continue to receive your benefits via paper check
3. Apply for a Direct Express Debit card directly by visiting the following website: www.usdirectexpress.com , or by calling: 001-800 333-1795

For more information, please also visit: www.ssa.gov

Stimate Beneficiar,

Programul de plată a pensiei prin cardurile de debit CHASE va înceta începând cu data de 12 decembrie 2014, nici o pensie nu va mai fi virată către aceste carduri CHASE după această dată. Cardurile vor rămâne activate, iar utilizatorii vor putea retrage bani până la o dată încă nespecificată de către bancă. Banca își va notifica beneficiarii cu privire la data finală a dezactivării cardurilor. După acea dată, orice sumă rămasă în cont va fi trimisă beneficiarilor sub formă de cec. Dacă primiți pensia SSA, OPM sau VA prin cardul CHASE, vă anunțăm că SSA planuiește să revină la plata pensiei prin cec începând cu data de 2 ianuarie 2015.

Iată varintele pe care le aveți la dispoziție:

1. Vă puteți transfera banii către o altă bancă în SUA;
2. Puteți primi în continuare cecuri lunare,

3. Puteti aplica pentru un card de debit la Direct Express accesând site-ul: www.usdirectexpress.com sau sunând la telefon: 001-800 333-1795.

Pentru mai multe informatii, accesati site-ul SSA: www.ssa.gov .

The Embassy's American Citizen Services (ACS) unit provides a variety of emergency and non-emergency services to Americans in Romania.

We [visit Americans in jail](#), assist families and friends following the [death of a U.S. citizen](#) loved one, offer help to U.S. children and families involved in [abduction](#), [custody](#), and other cases, check on the welfare of U.S. citizens in Romania, can help you register to [vote in U.S. elections](#) and can provide you with information on local resources available to [victims of crime](#) or [domestic violence in Romania](#). Click on any of the categories to the left of this page for more information.

Update: Passports, Reports of Birth Abroad and Notarial Services

Important Announcement: All non-emergency services (renewal of U.S. passports, Consular Reports of Birth Abroad, Notarials and other services) are provided [by appointment only](#)

Passports, Reports of Birth and Notarial Services

All services are provided by appointment only.

Please make an [appointment online](#).

Appointments for passport services are available Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM and Mondays from 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM.

Minimize processing time with the following steps:

Fill out and print your application online. Fill out your [passport application online and print it](#). Failure to fill out and print your passport application online may cause delays in processing your application. Bring the printed copy of your application with you to the Embassy.

Be Prepared. If you do not bring all required information and documentation, you may be required to make a new appointment. Prior to your appointment, please review the requirements for your requested

service ([Passport](#), [CRBA](#), or [Notarial Service](#)). See the following links for up to date information on requirements.

- [Passports and Reports of Birth \(CRBA\)](#)
- [Notarial Services](#)

For more information click [here](#)

Mail in your passport application! You can renew your passport via mail

Want to Save Even More Time? **Mail in your application!** You can renew your passport via mail if you meet the following qualifications:

- You are currently in Romania and have a mailing address in Romania
- Your most recent full validity passport was issued within the last 15 years **and** when you were age 16 or over
- The passport you are submitting is not damaged or mutilated

For necessary documentation and more information on mail-in renewals, please [click here](#)

Fees for Services

First-Time passport, first adult (ten-year) passport, or replacement for a lost/stolen/mutilated passport.	U.S. \$135.00 (payments also accepted in RON)
Adult passport renewal fee (renewal of a ten-year passport).	U.S. \$110.00 (payments also accepted in RON)
Children's Passports (under 16 years old).	U.S. \$105.00 (payments also accepted in RON)
Additional Visa Pages	U.S. \$82.00 (payments also accepted in RON)
Passport Cards: Adult First Time	U.S. \$55.00 (payments also accepted in RON)

Passport Card.	in RON)
Adult Passport Card Renewal	U.S. \$30.00 (payments also accepted in RON). Note: Adults who already have a fully valid passport book may apply for the card as a passport renewal.
Children Passport Card	U.S. \$40.00 (payments also accepted in RON).
Children Passport Card (In connection with or addition to a passport book application)	U.S. \$15.00 (payments also accepted in RON)
Reports of Birth Abroad (CRBA)	U.S. \$100.00 (payments also accepted in RON)
Expedited Service	No expedited service is offered outside of the United States.
Notarial Service (first service –seal)	U.S. \$50.00 (payments also accepted in RON).
Notarial Service (each additional seal Same transaction).	U.S. \$50.00 (payments also accepted in RON).
Certified True Copy (first copy)	U.S. \$50.00 (payments also accepted in RON).
Certified True Copy (additional copies)	U.S. \$50.00 (payments also accepted in RON).
<p style="text-align: center;">**Please Note**</p> <p>All fees are established by worldwide cost of service studies. Additionally, all fees in RON are based on current exchange rates and are, therefore, subject to change.</p>	

* More information at [Fees and forms of Payment](#)

Please note:

✚ The American Citizen Services unit cannot answer inquiries related to visas for Romanian citizens, even if they involve an American citizen petitioner or sponsor. For information regarding visas, please follow this link: <http://romania.usembassy.gov/visas.html>

✚ **Security check: All applicants must pass through security**, which includes putting your personal belongings through an x-ray machine

and walking through a metal detector. Due to tightened security policies, please do not bring iPods, iPads, PDAs, laptops, portable game devices, portable readers, etc. Cell phones and smart watches must be checked at the entrance. In order to not delay your appointment, we strongly encourage you to bring only what is needed for your business with us.

Doing Business in Romania/ Investing in the U.S.A. / Exporting U.S. Food and Agriculture to Romania

Doing Business in Romania: Romania offers significant opportunities to American businesses with products, services, or technologies that either meet growing private demand or contribute to the country's development priorities. Find out more information [here](#)
Useful link: <http://www.export.gov/>

Investing in the U.S.A.: Visit the [SelectUSA.gov](http://www.SelectUSA.gov) website to obtain general information about investing in the United States. SelectUSA seeks to highlight the many advantages the United States offers as location for business and investment.
Useful links: <http://business.usa.gov/>

Exporting U.S. Food and Agriculture to Romania: The Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) Bucharest works for improving access of U.S. products on the Romanian market. FAS Bucharest operates programs designed to build new markets and improve the competitive position of U.S. agriculture in Romania.

Social Media Service for American Citizens in Romania

Follow us and keep up-to-date on all the news regarding services to American Citizens living in and visiting Romania.

Join us on **Facebook** - [American Citizen Services Romania](#)

Don't Drink and Drive- Taxi Contact Information

There is zero tolerance driving under the influence of alcohol in Romania. Police are required to give all drivers involved in an accident Breathalyzer tests on the scene. Refusal to take a Breathalyzer test will result in criminal penalties regardless of whether or not alcohol was involved. Driving under the influence of alcohol may cause injury or death and may result in imprisonment.

Choose your ride.
Drink. Drive. Go to Jail.



TAXI SERVICES IN BUCHAREST AREA *	
<u>CRISTAXI</u>	021-9466 or 021-94-55
<u>EURO-FLY</u>	021-9440 or 021-9441
<u>LEONE</u>	021-9425
<u>MERIDIAN</u>	021-9444 or 021-9888
<u>MONDIAL</u>	021-9423

<u>SPEED TAXI</u>	021 260 2000
<u>PEROZZI TAXI</u>	021-9631

* While American Citizen Service (ACS) strive to make the material provided in our newsletter as informative as possible, we make no claims, promises, or guarantees of warranties of any kind, implied, expressed, or statutory, including but not limited to the warranties of non-infringement of third party rights, title, merchantability.

References included in this newsletter to any specific commercial product, process, or service, firm or corporation name is used only for the information and convenience to the American citizen community in Romania, and does not constitute endorsement, recommendations, or favoring by the Department of State or the U.S. Embassy in Romania.



This Newsletter is managed by the American Citizens Services.
External links to outside sites should not be construed as an endorsement of the views or privacy policies contained therein.